

FOREIGN NEWS.

Translated and Selected from leading European papers for the SENTINEL.

ENGLAND.

America and England.

The great race across the Atlantic for a record ended in a victory for the American liner St. Paul, which landed her passengers at Southampton in time for those who were due at the Chamber of Commerce dinner in London in the evening to "get there" in the nick of time. It was about three o'clock in the morning that the progress of the St. Paul was first reported on this side of the Atlantic, when she was sighted steaming steadily past the Lizard. Hours went by, and it looked as though the diners on board her would have to disappoint their City hosts. But the St. Paul swung to berth in Southampton docks at 12:15 in the afternoon. Then the South Western Railway Company put on an "extra special," and wired to Waterloo saying it would run in there at six o'clock. The St. Paul arrived at 4:23. The extra special left at 4:36. It ran into Waterloo at 5:31. It did the eighty miles in 75 minutes. The three American gentlemen who came by the "extra" were Messrs. C. A. Griscom, P. A. B. Widener and W. L. Atkins.

London Daily Telegraph, June 6.

The two ships left New York practically the same time, some of the American delegates to the international reunion at the Grocers' Hall electing to travel by the Liverpool route, while others, pinning their faith to anything under the Stars and Stripes, took their tickets for Southampton. In the sequel the Teutonic arrived off Queenstown at nine o'clock yesterday morning, and was not expected to enter the Mersey before midnight. None of her passengers in any case could reach London in time to avail themselves of the invitation to the Chamber of Commerce banquet. The St. Paul, on the contrary, after lying to ground for some hours in the early part of the day, made good her disadvantage at the first opportunity, and in the course of the afternoon steamed into Southampton Water, figuratively, and perhaps literally, for aught we know, under flying colors. * * * We shall make a very great mistake if we imagine that little episodes of this sort are of no importance, and that the prestige of the British commercial spirit can continue to disappear at the present rate without profound injury in the end to the substantial interests of our trade. The irritating feature upon our side is not the failure of real effort, for that is never dishonorable, but the absence of effort. While all our competitors are speeding up in every direction, we are becoming slower and more lethargic. * * * But nothing is more certain than that if we allow our commercial prestige to go, our actual interests will sooner or later follow. Frontal attacks and football matches show that there is an immense vigor of temperament in the nation as a whole. Why it means unable to find competitive excellence even to the humble extent of Channel record, is a most serious problem.

London Standard, June 6.

The guests of the evening may have remembered that the great conflict with France in America arose out of trade and industrial contests. But the object of nations then was to secure exclusive possession of territory to be kept as a close market for the Mother Country—often with a very scant regard for the wishes or the interests of the colonists. That period is closed, and the London down was unquestionably right in saying that the most convinced protectionist no longer hopes to exclude all foreign commerce, or thinks that there would be any advantage in doing so, if it were possible. He quoted Mr. McKintley's description of fair trade with approval. The term, as the Foreign Minister noted, is subject to diverse interpretations, and he was careful not to dwell upon it at length. It is not everybody who holds the cheery and strictly orthodox view of Lord Avebury, that we have no cause to complain if other nations tax themselves by protective duties and bounties, in order to be able to sell cheap to us. But it is an undeniable fact that the great development of trade between two nations does tend to make war ruinous to both of them. The loss is certain, and gain most problematical.

Industrial Conditions in Ireland Money Market Review.

"The Lord Lieutenant and Prosperity to Ireland" used to be a familiar toast at Viceregal banquets in Ireland, but it was not a popular one. Its unpopularity arose from a fixed belief that it was an institution specially designed to mock the poverty of the country, for, however disastrous if conditions might be, the speeches which the toast called forth were always brimful of joy and hope at the magnificent and abounding prosperity, both actual and prospective. Festive or official language is not remarkable for perfect frankness, either in Ireland or elsewhere, but even the most seasoned student of such literature can not read the ancient "prosperity speeches" delivered by succeeding Viceroys, even throughout the most acute periods of famine and ruin in Ireland, without feeling a sort of admiration for the almost heroic audacity evinced by them in totally ignoring actual facts; and it is very little wonder that the general Irish public, who felt the stern pressure of those facts, and who were in no position to appreciate official humor, should regard Viceregal "prosperity speeches" as mere vehicles of insulting irony aimed remorselessly at their deplorable condition. Lord Cadogan's speech at the Incorporated banquet in Dublin has created a good deal of attention in England, but, after all, its most remarkable feature is its entire reversal of official tradition in frank and sympathetic recognition of actual conditions, even although there are already some indications that those conditions are on the eve of a decided improvement.

The Savings Banks deposits on railway traffic returns have done duty for generations, not only in official speeches in Ireland, but also in the

financial and general press of England, in proving the pathetic prosperity of the Sister Isle, but there could be no more misleading statistics on which to base any such conclusions. Even during the fiercest period of the land war, when both trade and agriculture were completely disorganized, the bank returns showed similar marked indications of widespread prosperity, for the simple reason that under the plan of campaign the farmers, instead of paying their rents to the landlords, deposited them in the banks pending the adjustment of their dispute; and recently Mr. McCann, M. P., as chairman of the Irish Bankers' Association, in spite of the rosy returns of the Board of Trade, drew a lurid picture of the widespread decay of the country, the stagnation and mismanagement of the railways and waterways, and the unceasing tide of emigration, the effects of which have been so vividly illustrated in the recent census returns. Under the circumstances it seems odd to talk of "congested districts" where thousands of acres of rich land are lying waste, and although it would be ungracious to ignore Lord Cadogan's obvious sincerity, there is a danger that in the so-called "congested districts" the Lord Lieutenant's suggestion of artificially stimulating industry in the towns so as to attract the surplus population of the country may be interpreted as a desire to still further depopulate the rural districts in the interests of such landlords and graziers as may desire more freedom for rearing cattle for the English market. It is doubtful whether, in an agricultural country like Ireland, the towns will ever become great centres of such industries as are carried on in Great Britain, and it is also doubtful if such a development would be desirable from an Irish point of view, even if possible.

A Pension or the Workhouse London Broad Arrow

It is a pity that the speech of Lord Monckwell in bringing before the House of Lords his motion for the industrial training of the soldier with the colors, in order to qualify him for civil employment on discharge, was not more fully reported in the press, for he put forward several points of interest and importance in a military point of view. As to his main argument, we have more than once expressed the opinion, which we believe to be the general one of regimental officers, that it is impossible to carry out Lord Monckwell's suggestions so as to be of any real practical help to the soldier on discharge, seeking for employment in the skilled labor market. That market, generally crowded, would afford little hope of remunerative work to the discharged soldier who, enlisting probably as an agricultural laborer, had managed to pick up some smattering of a trade at odd hours in a regimental work shop. Our contention was, and is, that when the State has taken up the best years of a man's life in performing the duties of a soldier, it cannot honestly throw him as a wail or stray upon the civilian labor market, and bid him find remunerative employment there because during his time with the colors he had now and then the stray chance of learning a bit of carpentering or some other trade. The advantage aimed for the short service system was the doing away with the heavy burden of the old system in the shape of pensions; but the anticipated economy has been confronted with the difficulty which Lord Monckwell's well meaning, but impracticable, scheme was put forward to do away with.

Russia Wins Her Point.

London Globe, June 4.

The reduction of the international army of occupation happens none too soon; typhoid will inevitably rage at Peking during the hot season. At the best of times, the great city's sanitary arrangements are grossly imperfect, but owing to the recent fighting, large portions must have become veritable cemeteries of the most casual kind. As to what will follow the withdrawal of the forces we shall not now dwell upon. But on one important point, there is, unfortunately, no room for question, Russia has attained her purpose by emerging from the struggle with Manchuria virtually added to her Asiatic Empire. Whatever the Peking Government may do or leave undone as regards the rest of China, the great Northern Province has permanently passed outside of anything more than nominal control from Peking. But the process of dismemberment will not stop there, unless the other European Powers unite to uphold their common interests. In the French Chamber M. Delcasse affirmed that "our policy in Chinese matters is essentially the same as that of Russia, for our interests are one and the same." With this guarantee of French cooperation, the St. Petersburg Government has every inducement to make use of Manchuria as a base for aggressive purposes farther south, and it will derive additional encouragement from the checked discrimination of other European Powers to embark on any scheme of intelligent cooperation in the Far East.

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WM. BACKUS, Chairman,
LEO EBERT,
ED. J. WAGNER,
WM. WINDSCH,
JOHN STANG,
Committee on Resolutions.

The report was unanimously adopted.

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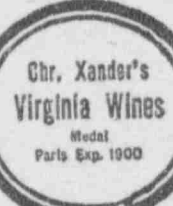
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